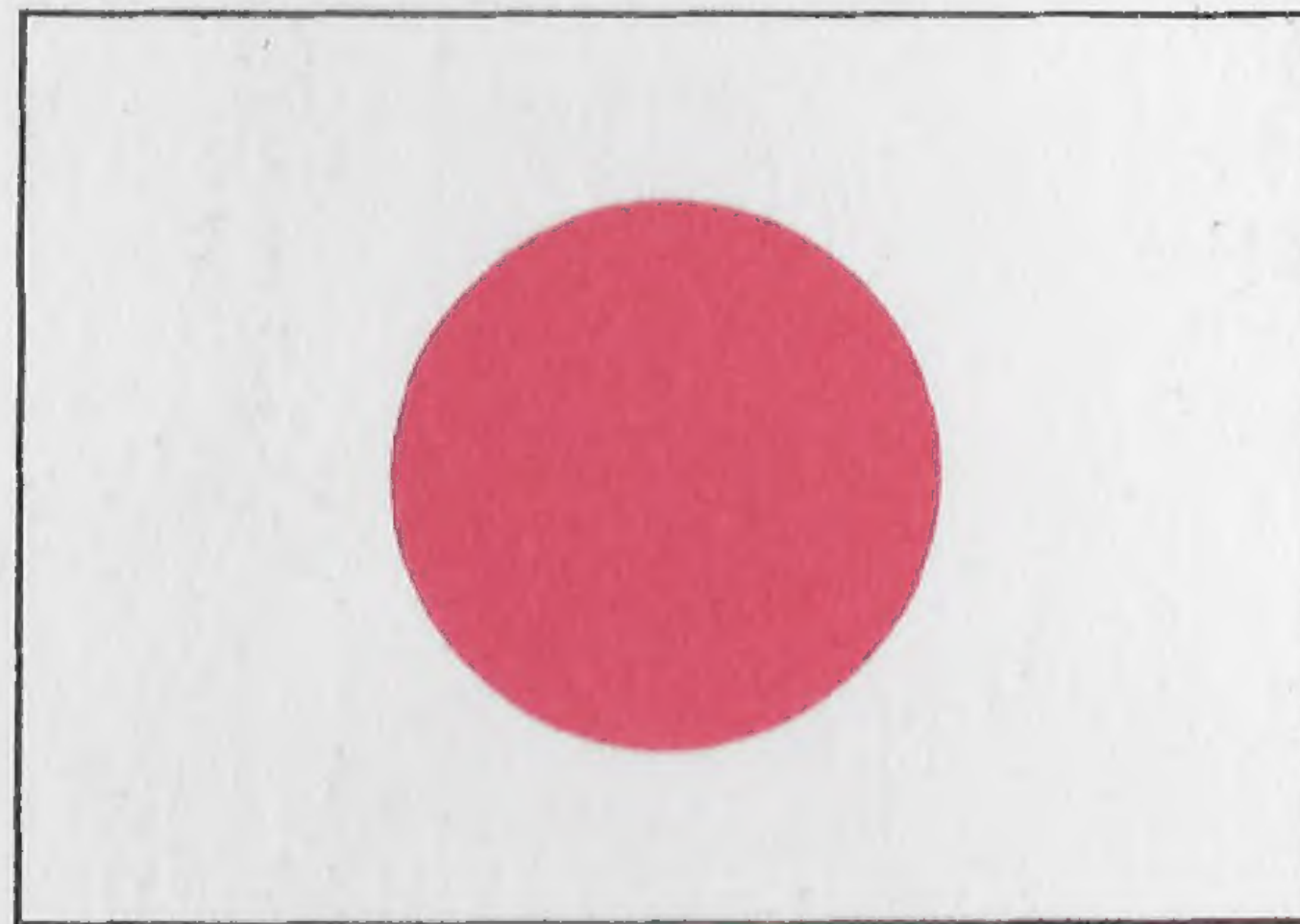


PIC C 1



JAPAN TODAY



"Hinomaru", national flag of Japan

National Flag and National Anthem

KIMIGAYO

The National Anthem of JAPAN

For Unison Singing, Piano Acc.

$\text{♩} = 69$

Ki-mi ga yo wa, Chi-yo ni Ya-chi-yo ni

Sa-za-re - i-shi no, I-wa-o to na-ri te

Ko-ke no mu-su ma - - de

A. National Flag

The national flag of Japan consists of a solid red circle in the center of a pure white background. It is called "Hi-no-Maru" which means "roundness of the sun." It is symbolic of Japan which in Japanese is "Nippon," meaning source of the sun. Hence the expression "Land of the Rising Sun."

Although this symbol had been popular in Japan since the 13th century, it was only in the second half of the 19th century that it became the national flag of Japan. The standard form of the flag was fixed by official proclamation in 1870.

The Hi-no-Maru was used in a national ceremony for the first time in 1872 when the Emperor Meiji opened the first railway in Japan.

B. National Anthem

The title of the National Anthem is "Kimigayo," which means "the Reign of Our Emperor." The words, taken from an ancient poem, read in Japanese:

Kimi ga yo wa
Chiyo ni yachiyo ni
Sazare ishi no
Iwao to nari te
Koke no musu made.

A translation by Basil Hall Chamberlain is as follows:

Ten thousand years of happy reign be thine:
Rule on, my lord, till what are pebbles now
By ages united to mighty rocks shall grow
Whose venerable sides the moss doth line.

Kimigayo was officially adopted as Japan's National Anthem in 1888.



Imperial Family

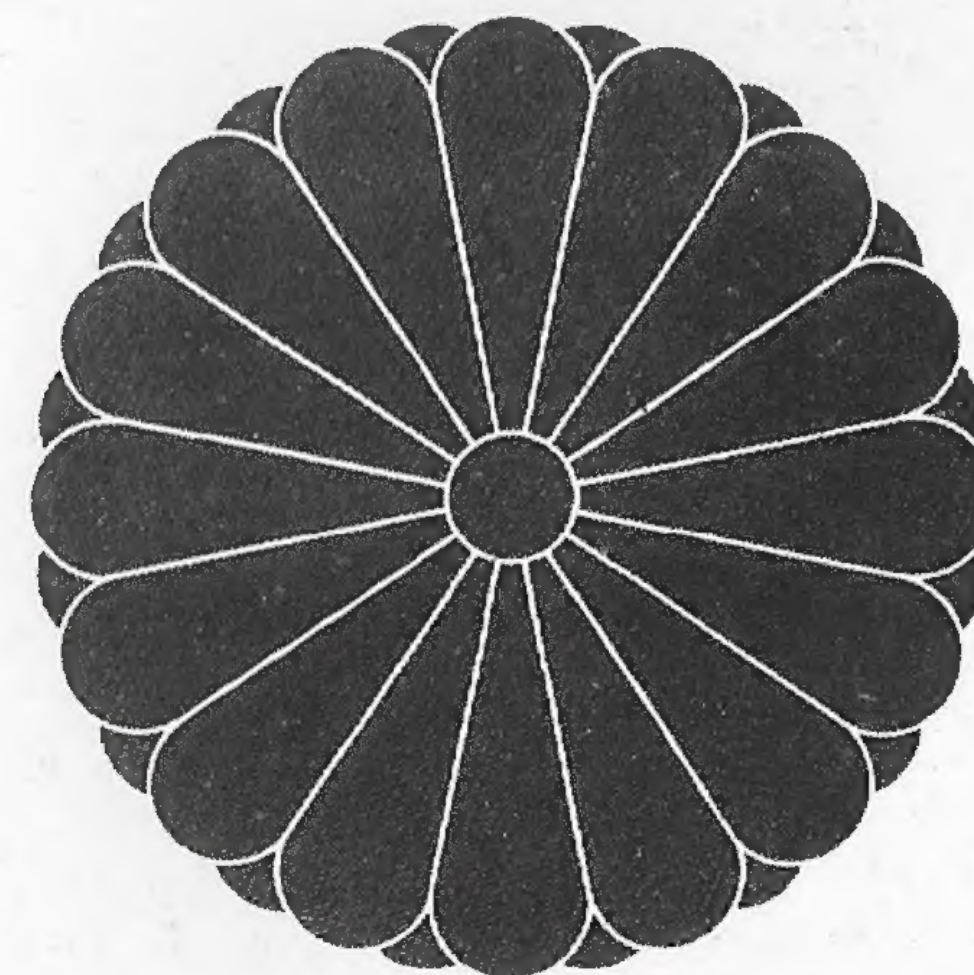


Main outer wall of Imperial Palace Grounds

Emperor Hirohito is the 124th Emperor in the Japanese Imperial family line which dates back many centuries without a single interruption. Under the Constitution of Japan, the Emperor is "the symbol of the State and of the unity of the people, deriving his position from the will of the people with whom resides sovereign power."

The Emperor and Empress Nagako have six children. The eldest son is Crown Prince Akihito who took a commoner as his bride in 1959. The Crown Prince and Crown Princess Michiko have one son, Prince Naruhito Hironomiya, who was born in February, 1960.

Both the Emperor and the Crown Prince have many hobbies and interests. The Emperor is best known for his studies and books in the field of marine biology. The Crown Prince shares his father's interest in the study of marine life. He is also an active sportsman, especially in tennis and horsemanship.



The 16-petalled chrysanthemum, the crest of the Imperial Family



The Land

Japan is made up of four main islands—Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu—and many hundreds of smaller islands off the coastline. This island nation stretches in a north-southwest direction off the northeastern coast of the Asian mainland; the northern island of Hokkaido is less than 45 kilometers from Sakhalin Island and the southern island of Kyushu is only 200 kilometers away from Korea. Japan's total length is 2,400 kilometers (1,500 miles) and the total land area under its actual administration is 369,662 square kilometers (142,726.5 square miles). The most important and largest island is Honshu; here are located Japan's principal cities, such as Tokyo, the nation's capital, Yokohama, the major harbor and port, Kyoto, major cultural center, and the Osaka-Kobe area, an important commercial and industrial center.

The islands of Japan are in the temperate zone. The summer, autumn, winter and spring seasons are clearly divided; there is much sunshine as well as rain each year. The winter snows are heavy in the north, but very little snow falls in the south. The winter in Tokyo is relatively mild, the coldest month being February.

About 80 per cent of Japan's land area is mountainous. The most famous mountain is Mt. Fuji which is 3,773 meters (12,374 feet) high and is admired for its graceful symmetry and majestic beauty. However, because there are so many mountains, it is necessary for the Japanese farmer to make terraced fields on the mountain sides and to use all the flat land he can find. There are also many short and swift rivers and along the coastline are hundreds of good harbors and small coves and inlets.

The country is poor in natural resources. It is necessary for Japan to import large quantities of all major raw materials such as oil, coal, iron ore, cotton, wool as well as wheat and other foodstuffs. With its many rivers, however, Japan has large hydro-electric power sources, as well as many thermal plants to run the machinery of its modern industries.



The Marunouchi business center of Tokyo



"Hinamatsuri", girls' doll festival on March 3rd

People

Nobody knows the exact origins of the Japanese people. Some scholars say that the first people came from northern Asia and from the region of South China, others say the first settlers came from the islands in the South Pacific.

The population of Japan is estimated to be 95,080,000 as of October 1, 1962. Japan's population is the sixth largest in the world after continental China, India, the Soviet Union, the United States and Pakistan. However, because so many mountains limit the living space, this huge population makes Japan one of the most crowded countries in the world. More than 40 per cent of the total population lives on only one per cent of the country's total land area.

More and more Japanese are leaving the countryside and moving into big cities where there are more jobs and higher wages. The capital city of Tokyo has the largest population, estimated to be over 10 million. Five other cities each have a population of over one million people; these are Osaka, Nagoya, Yokohama, Kyoto and Kobe, in that order.

City life has changed more rapidly than life in the countryside. In the cities, there are crowds of shoppers and workers, heavy traffic, tall, modern office buildings and department stores, new underground railways and bus lines, and many motion picture theaters and concert halls. In the countryside, the people live a slower and simpler life, although most homes now have radios and television sets and more farm families are buying electric washing machines, refrigerators and other modern household appliances.

Throughout Japan, all the people enjoy both national holidays and local festivals. Japan's most important national holiday is the Emperor's Birthday on April 29 each year. The New Year holidays as well as the mid-summer Buddhist festival are celebrated in all parts of Japan. There are also national holidays in honor of young boys and girls.



Tokyo morning rush-hour crowd



Typical living room of a Japanese home today

The Home



Modern apartment house

The style and structure of Japanese houses today are almost the same as they have been for many centuries, but modified for modern living. In its basic design, it is usually one-story high, made of wooden beams and walls with a tile roof. A unique feature is the use of sturdy sliding panels as windows and doors. There is always the wooden panel and usually additional panels inside made of glass or covered with special paper and called "shoji." When open, these "windows" allow the cool summer breezes or the warm winter sunlight to fill the house. When closed, these panels become "walls," making a Japanese home as secure as any other house. The floor is also unique, being covered with cushioned straw mats called "tatami." The entire design is one of simplicity and natural beauty.

Rooms are used for many purposes. Each can be used to dine in, to sleep in or just as a sitting room. There are a number of reasons for this. One is maximum utilization of space. Most Japanese usually sleep on bedding rolled out on the "tatami." This bedding is stored away in closets during the day, permitting the room to be used for other purposes. Another is that walls separating rooms usually are like sliding doors. They may be closed to form small rooms or opened to make large rooms. Furniture is usually limited to low tables and a few chests of drawers; in place of chairs, cushions are used, being placed on the "tatami." These mats are always clean, because shoes are never worn in a Japanese house.

The interior of all homes is very simple. Most of the wood is left with its natural color. The main room usually has a small recess, called "tokonoma," which contains the only decoration in the room. This decoration is usually a hanging scroll and a flower arrangement, both of them representing the season of the year at the time. Sometimes, during festival days, dolls or other art objects are displayed in the "tokonoma."

Even the many new modern apartment buildings that can be seen in all the major cities follow the traditional style of sliding windows and simple design. However, the people everywhere are more and more using chairs and tables and other kinds of furniture. And today, one almost always finds the television set occupying an important corner in the main room.

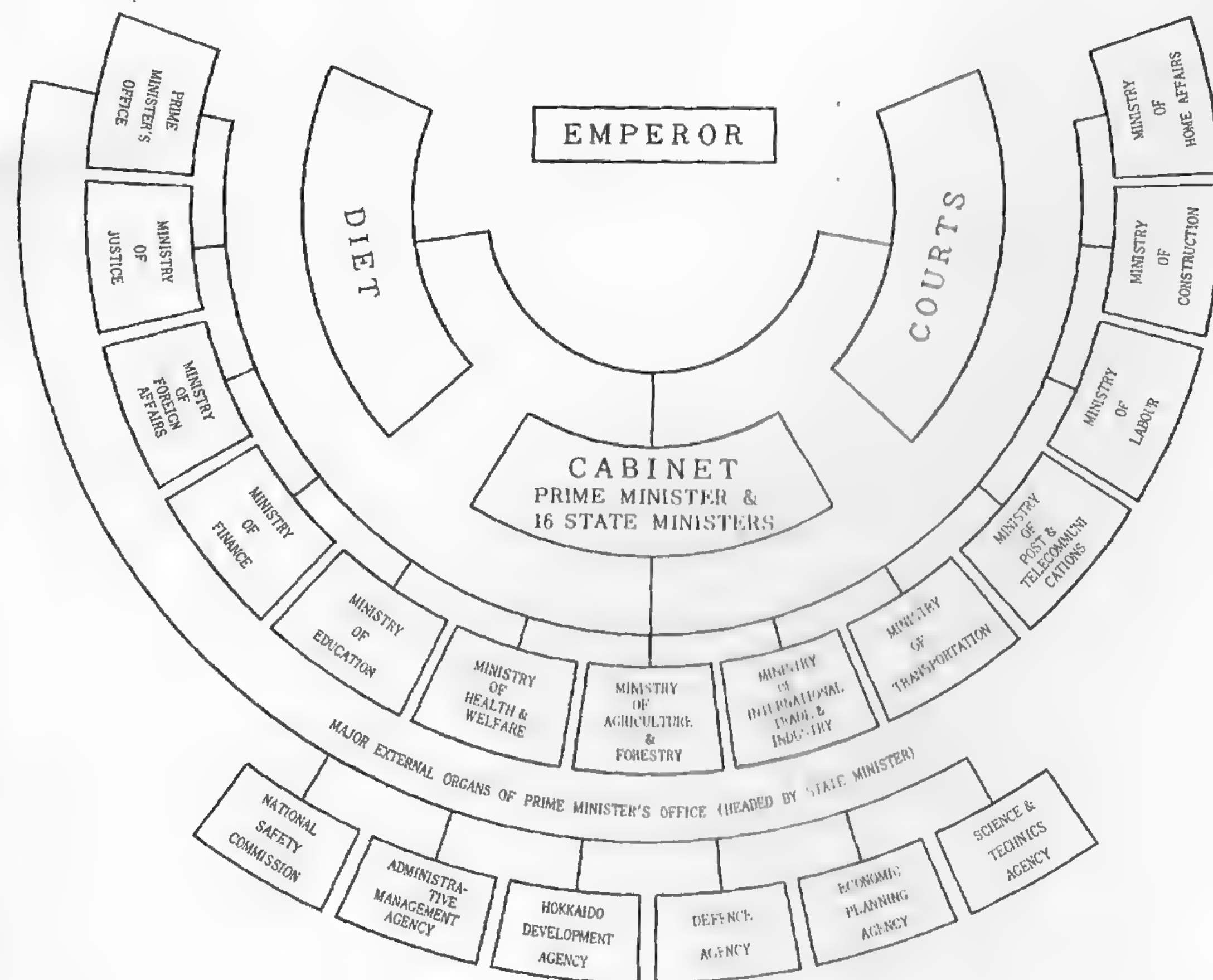


National Diet building



Tokyo Meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee

Government



Japan has a democratic form of government. Its present Constitution came into force on May 3, 1947. The highest law-making body is the Diet, or Parliament, which is elected directly by the people. The Diet is composed of the House of Representatives with 467 members and the House of Councillors with 250 members. The Representatives are elected for a four-year term of office, although this term may be cut short if the Diet is dissolved. The Councillors are elected for a six-year term of office with half of the members elected every three years. All men and women of the age of 20 or over have the right to vote in all elections.

The chief executive of the nation is the Prime Minister, who is elected by the Diet from among its members; he is usually the leader of the majority party. The Prime Minister then selects usually 16 Ministers of State to serve in his Cabinet. All these Ministers must be civilians and at least half of them must also be members of the Diet. Each Minister heads a government department such as Foreign Affairs, Finance, Justice, Etc.

If the House of Representatives votes disapproval of the Prime Minister and his policies, the entire Cabinet must resign at once and the Diet then selects a new Prime Minister. However, the Prime Minister may not resign but, instead, dissolve the House of Representatives and call for national elections, after which the Cabinet resigns and the new Diet selects a Prime Minister.

The highest court of justice is the Supreme Court which has a Chief Justice and 14 other Justices. The Supreme Court and all lower courts are completely independent of both the Diet and the Cabinet.

The main political parties at present are: the Liberal Democratic Party (the only conservative party in Japan today), the Socialist Party and the Democratic-Socialist Party.

For local administration, Japan is divided into 46 regions called prefectures, including the capital district called the Metropolitan Prefecture of Tokyo. All prefectures, as well as cities, towns and villages, have local assemblies, the members of which are directly elected by the voters in the local community.



Agriculture



Dairy farm in Hokkaido

Farming is still a very important part of Japan's economy. Thirty-seven per cent of the population depends upon agriculture for its income. However, this percentage is slowly decreasing as more farming families are moving from the land to take jobs in industry. Also, many members of farming families today hold part-time jobs in the manufacturing and service industries.

The amount of land that can be used for farming is extremely limited because of the many mountains. Only 16 per cent, or about 59,150 square kilometers (14.6 million acres), of total land area is arable. The farms themselves are also very small, the average size being only two-and-one-half acres. Farmers use every bit of land possible, making terraces on the sides of hills and mountains, and using land along river banks. They make heavy use of chemical fertilizers and employ the most advanced agricultural techniques. More and more mechanical tillers and other small-sized machinery are being used in addition to the traditional farming methods.

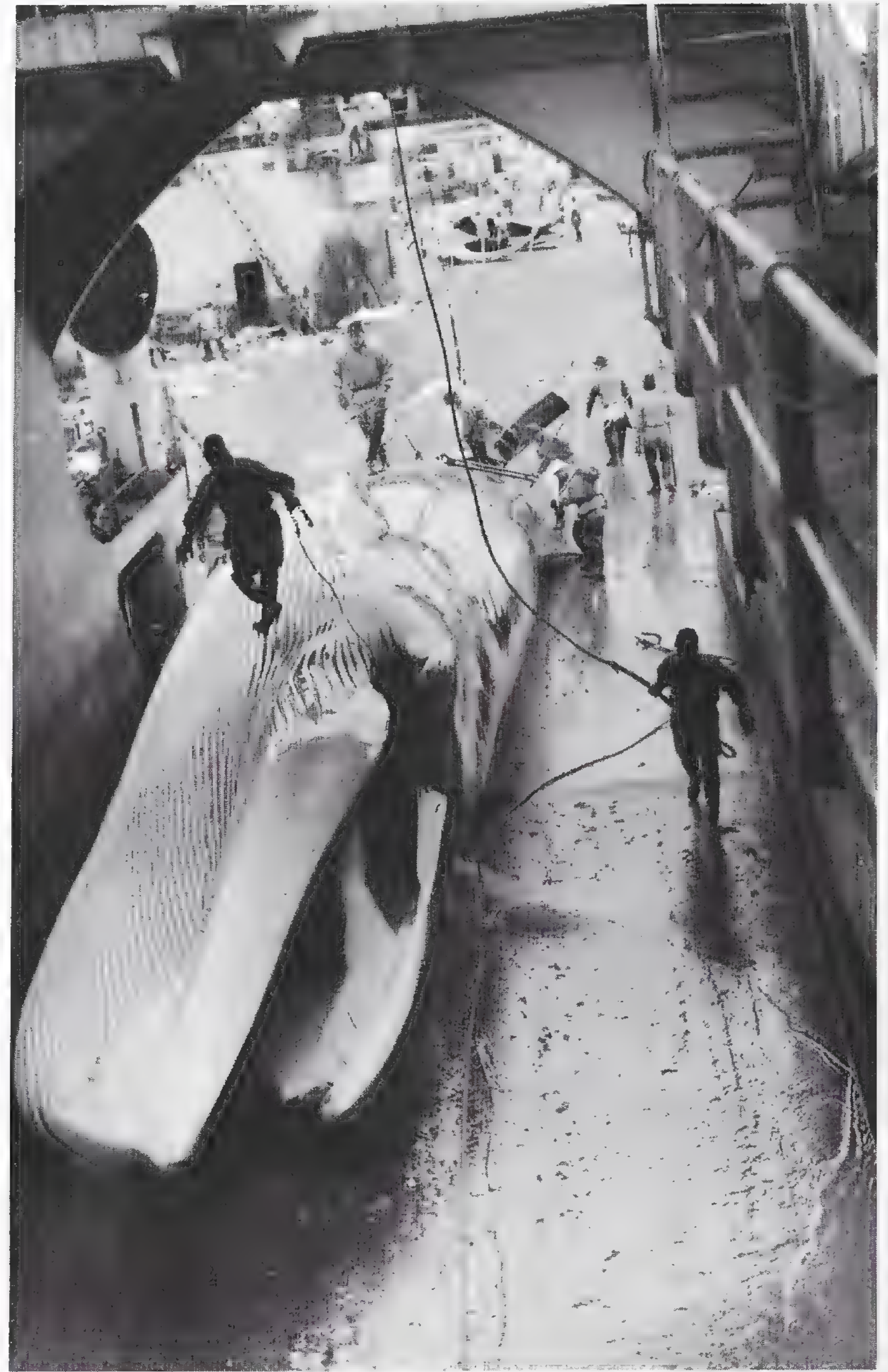
The production levels of Japanese farms are very high. Rice production per acre, for example, is the highest in the world. However, Japan is unable to grow all of its food requirements. Its major food imports are wheat, sugar and soybeans.

Japan's chief crop is rice, followed by wheat and barley. Also important are potatoes, tea, tobacco, soybeans and mulberry leaves for silkworms. In recent years, there has been a steady increase in the production of many kinds of fruits, the most important ones being mandarin oranges, apples, strawberries and peaches.

Another important change has been the steady development of dairy farms, the largest ones being located in the northern island of Hokkaido. This growth has resulted partly from a change in the eating habits of the people who today are consuming more meat, butter, milk and eggs than ever before. However, because good pasture land is limited, dairy farming is kept on a small scale.



A giant marlin being hauled aboard



A mother ship of a whaling fleet



Fish market

Fisheries

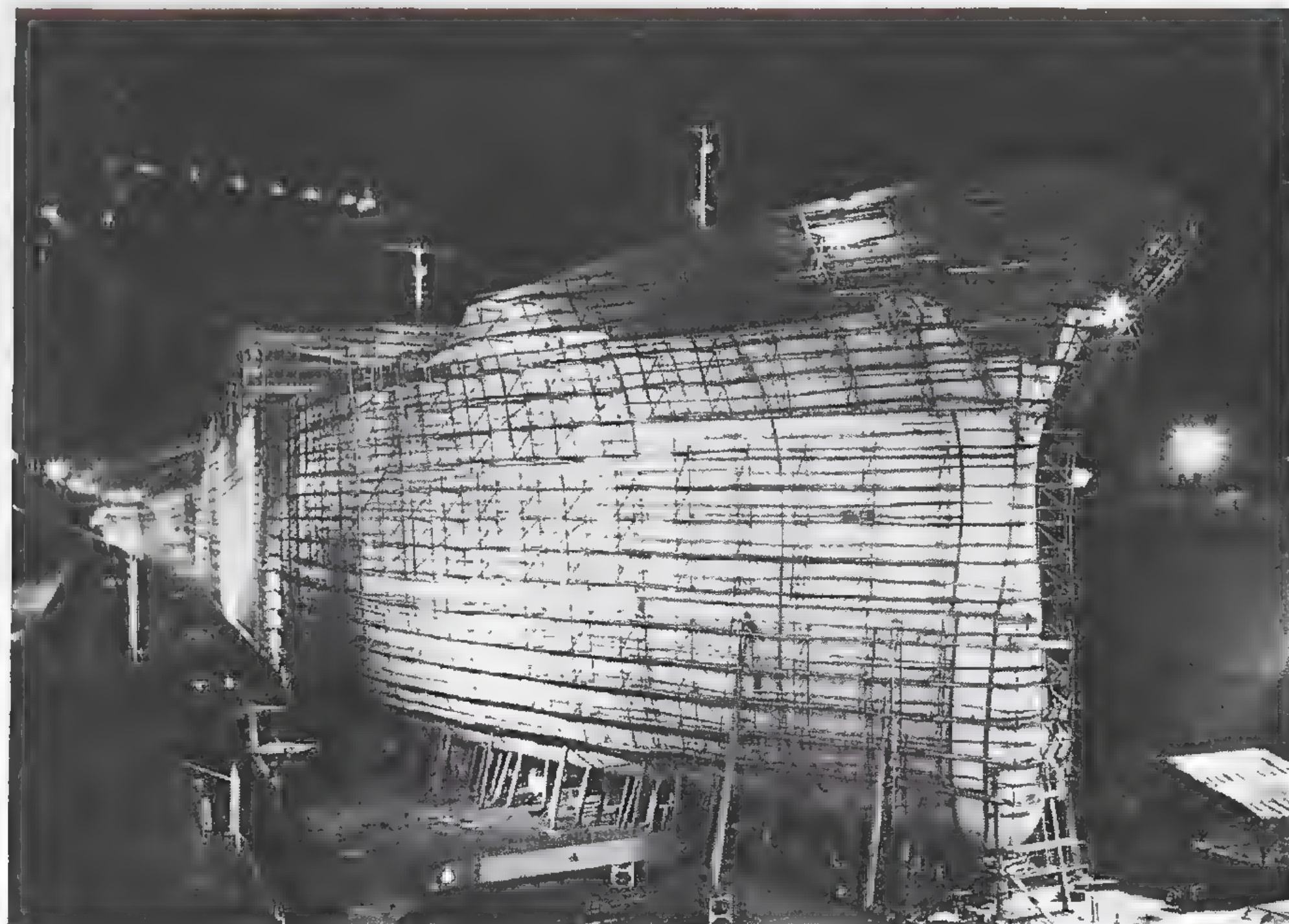
Japan is surrounded by the sea on all sides which are generously filled with all kinds of fish. For centuries, fish has been the main source of protein in the Japanese diet. The average Japanese eats about 45 pounds of fish each year and only five pounds of meat.

The fishery industry is one of Japan's most important industries. The total Japanese fishing catch per year is the biggest in the world. In 1960, it amounted to 6.2 million tons excluding whales or 16 per cent of the total fish catch of the world. Japanese fishing techniques are very famous and many countries, especially in Southeast Asia and South America, are now importing and studying these techniques under special agreements with Japan.

Japanese fishermen sail all over the Pacific Ocean and some parts of the Indian Ocean catching whales, tuna, bonito, salmon, mackerel, herring, sardines, crabs and other shellfish. The fishing fleet numbers about 400 thousand vessels, consisting mostly of small boats. Almost all the towns and villages along Japan's seacoasts have small fishing fleets made up of individually-owned boats operating together in co-operatives. These operate in the coastal waters. For deep-sea fishing, there are large fishery companies which operate big fleets of ships, complete with a "mother" ship which has modern machinery to freeze, store and can fish while the fleet is still at sea.

Fish is not only important as the source of food for the Japanese people. It is also important as a source of exports to foreign countries. Principal exports are frozen and canned tuna and crabmeat.

One unusual part of the fisheries industry is the production of cultured pearls. The method was invented by the Japanese many years ago. It consists of placing a tiny piece of shell into each oyster. The oysters are then placed in wire cages which are lowered into the sea. After several years, the oysters have formed a pearl around the tiny piece of shell.



Super-tanker under construction



Transistor production



Industry

Japan is the most important industrial nation in Asia today. There are great modern industries employing thousands of workers, as well as small factories consisting of the members of one family working together in their home, or working with only a few outside helpers. In all situations, however, the Japanese worker is well-known for his hard work and great skill.

Japanese industries are world famous. In shipbuilding, Japan is a world leader, and in the production of textiles and steel products, she ranks among the major producers of the world. Japan is also famous for its production of heavy as well as light machinery, for chemicals, chinaware and such precision instruments as cameras, transistor radios and television sets, and many kinds of scientific equipment.

There has been a tremendous growth in all phases of Japanese industries in recent years. The automobile industry is one of the fastest growing in Japan with a production of 814,000 cars, trucks and buses in 1961. Japan also manufactures the largest number of motorcycles in the world. There has been a great expansion in the production of home appliances like refrigerators, washing machines, vacuum cleaners and electric fans as the people's standard of living continues to rise. The chemical industry has also become a most important industry in Japan today, ranking third in the world in the production of basic chemical raw materials for use in modern industries.

Japanese labor unions now play an important role in Japan's industrial development. Most labor unions are organized on an individual industry basis: that is, all workers in one industry, regardless of the type of work they perform, belong to the same union. Labor union membership now numbers about 8 million, or about 35.4 per cent of the total paid workers in the country.



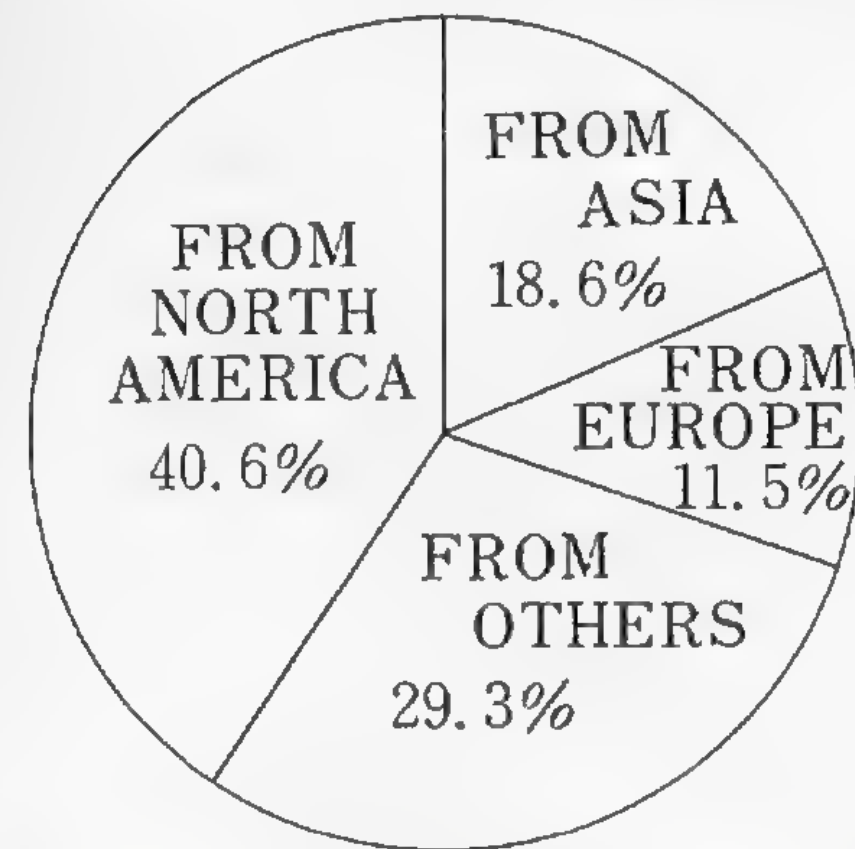
The YS-11, Japanese-made jet-prop transport plane



Loading cars for export

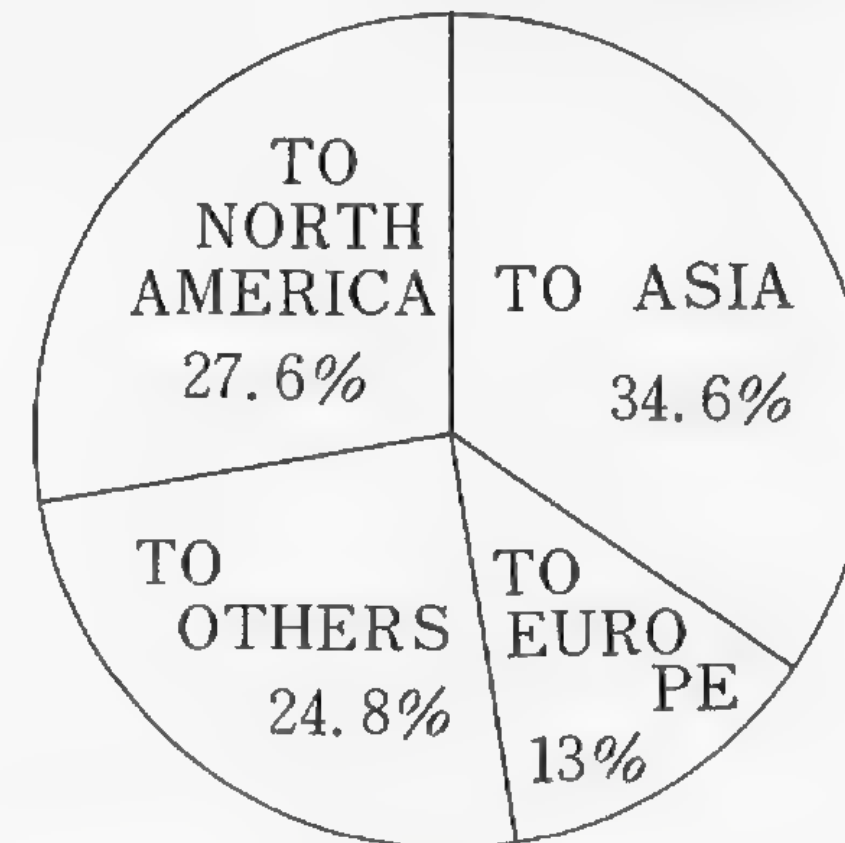
Foreign Trade

TOTAL IMPORTS
BY JAPAN 1961



VALUE OF IMPORTS
\$ 5,810,400,000

TOTAL EXPORTS
BY JAPAN



VALUE OF EXPORTS
\$ 4,235,600,000



Transistor radios waiting for shipment at Tokyo International Airport

To Japan and its people, foreign trade is the life-line by which its national life is maintained. With limited natural resources and a large and growing population, Japan must import great quantities of raw materials from other countries. In order to pay for these imports, it has to produce finished and semi-finished products from these imports and sell them to foreign buyers. Thus, Japan today is one of the world's great processing countries.

Raw materials, fuel and food are Japan's principal imports. For example, Japan imports all its supplies of raw cotton, wool and rubber, up to 98 per cent of its supply of crude oil, 92 per cent of its iron ore and more than 60 per cent of its sugar and wheat. Imports of petroleum, scrap iron and iron ore are steadily increasing as Japan's heavy industries continue to grow and expand.

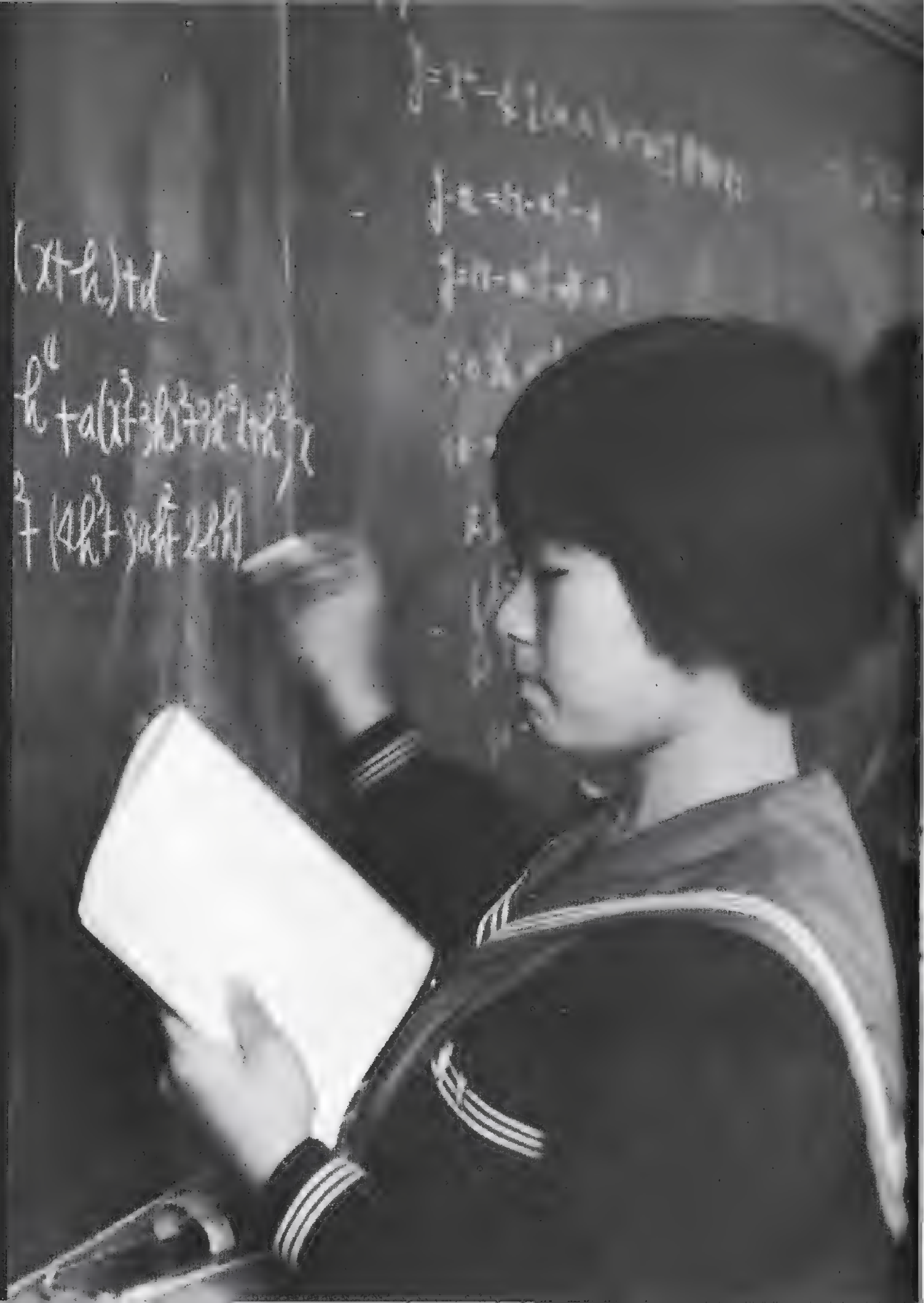
Exports of metal products, machinery and chemicals amount to 60 per cent of Japan's total exports. Textile and textile goods are still major export items. However, in recent years, there has been a steady increase in the export of such manufactured goods as sewing machines, ships, cars, cameras, plywood and transistor radios.

Japan's biggest single trading partner is the United States, which in 1961 took about one-third of Japan's total exports. In turn, Japan is the second biggest purchaser of American products, after Canada. In terms of areas, Asia buys the largest amount of Japan's exports, followed by North America (United States and Canada), while the largest volume of imports comes from North America, followed next by the Asian region.

Japan is a member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and is working together with many other countries to reduce tariffs and to increase free trade among all nations.



Physical exercise class in a primary school



Education



Music class in a primary school

Education for Japanese children is free for the first nine years and all children must go to school for six years of primary schooling and three years of secondary schooling. In the primary and secondary schools, the attendance is about 99.7 per cent of the total number of school-age children. School sessions usually begin at 8:00 o'clock in the morning and end at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon on weekdays and at noontime on Saturdays. The school year begins in April and ends in March each year. There is a summer vacation in August and a winter vacation during the New Year holidays.

After nine years of compulsory education, students can enter the three-year high school by passing an examination and by paying a small charge each year. After high school, students can go on to study at various types of universities, usually for four years. There are also special two-year colleges. Almost all universities and other schools are open to both men and women.

Japan has about 250 universities and colleges and 280 two-year junior colleges. The number of students is around 710,000.

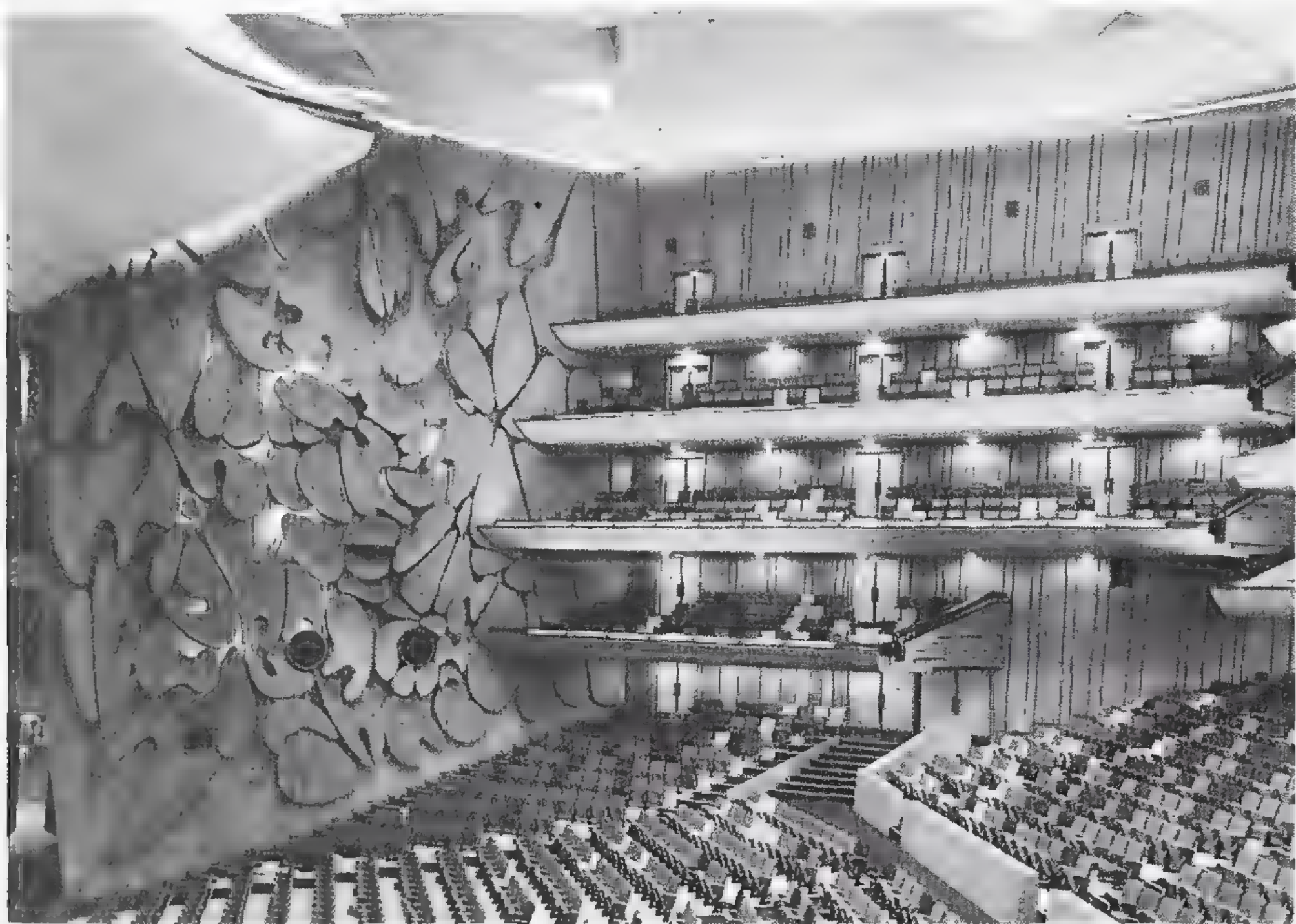
In addition to schools, Japan has many libraries, museums and exhibition halls. For example, in 1961, there were 712 public libraries, 363 museums, 43 zoos, 60 aquariums, and 39 botanical gardens. There are also many public halls where all kinds of musical concerts and plays are held.

Many foreign students come to Japan each year to study in Japanese universities. Recently, students from many Asian countries are coming to Japan to receive training in industries and in many fields of science and technology.

As a result of nearly 100 years of public education, practically every Japanese can read and write. Each year about 24,000 books are published and there are more than 2,200 magazines. There are over 100 daily newspapers and each household, on an average, reads two newspapers each day. In the spring of 1962, there were more than 20 million radio sets and 12 million television sets being used by the Japanese people.



A scene from a Kabuki play, traditional Japanese theater



Tokyo Metropolitan Festival Hall



Arts

The culture and art of mainland Asia—India, China, Korea—were brought to Japan together with Buddhism in the 6th century. By the 10th century, these cultural imports had been changed so that they were completely Japanese in form and style. During the following centuries, the arts developed under the direction and encouragement of the Buddhist priests and the nobility, including the Imperial Family.

Wooden and bronze sculpture, painting, pottery, lacquer work and woodblock prints have been developed to a high degree of beauty. At all times, Japanese art has been based upon the beauty of nature. Thus, landscape gardening and flower arrangement are an important part of Japanese life. In Japanese houses and in modern public buildings, the natural color of the construction materials is usually left untouched; the use of large sliding windows and wall panels allows the interior to be opened directly to the gardens and outside areas. Poetry and music, also, are usually expressions of the beauties of nature.

Traditional Japanese drama includes the classic Noh plays, the Bunraku or puppet theater and the Kabuki theater with its magnificent costumes and colorful settings. In the big cities, modern entertainments, like stage shows and musical revues and especially motion pictures, enjoy large followings. In recent years, Japanese motion pictures have become very popular in foreign countries and have received many prizes in international film competitions.

All major cities have symphony orchestras and opera and ballet performances draw large audiences. Tokyo now has the Metropolitan Festival Hall which has become a major center for all performing arts. Each year in Osaka, the International Music Festival brings visitors from throughout the world. In world art circles, Japanese painters and artists enjoy a high reputation and their works are included in international exhibitions.

Japanese have long been active in the field of literature and writing. Many novels have been translated into foreign languages in recent years and these are continuing to be very popular with foreign readers.



"Ikebana", traditional art of flower arrangement



Buddhist temple in a
mountain setting

Religion



Shinto shrine at Kotohira

Freedom of religion is guaranteed to all people under the Constitution of 1947. Buddhism is the major religion in Japan and exists side by side with Shinto. Christianity is also active and Confucianism still has some influence.

Buddhism came to Japan around the middle of the 6th century from India through China and Korea. It has been important both as a religion and as a source for developing art and learning throughout Japanese history.

Shintoism has existed in Japan from the earliest beginnings of the people. It is primarily concerned with the worship of both Imperial and family ancestors.

Christianity was brought to Japan in 1549 by the Jesuit missionary, St. Francis Xavier. The Shogunate (military government of the period) prohibited the practice of Christianity in the latter half of the 16th century. It remained banned for 250 years until Japan re-opened its doors to the world in the middle of the 19th century. Protestant Christianity was introduced around 1859 and today Protestants slightly outnumber Catholics in the Japanese Christian Church.

Confucianism originated in China and was introduced to Japan in the 6th century. It had a strong influence on Japanese patterns of behavior in the prewar years but its influence has declined in recent years.



The National Stadium under reconstruction for the Olympic Games in 1964

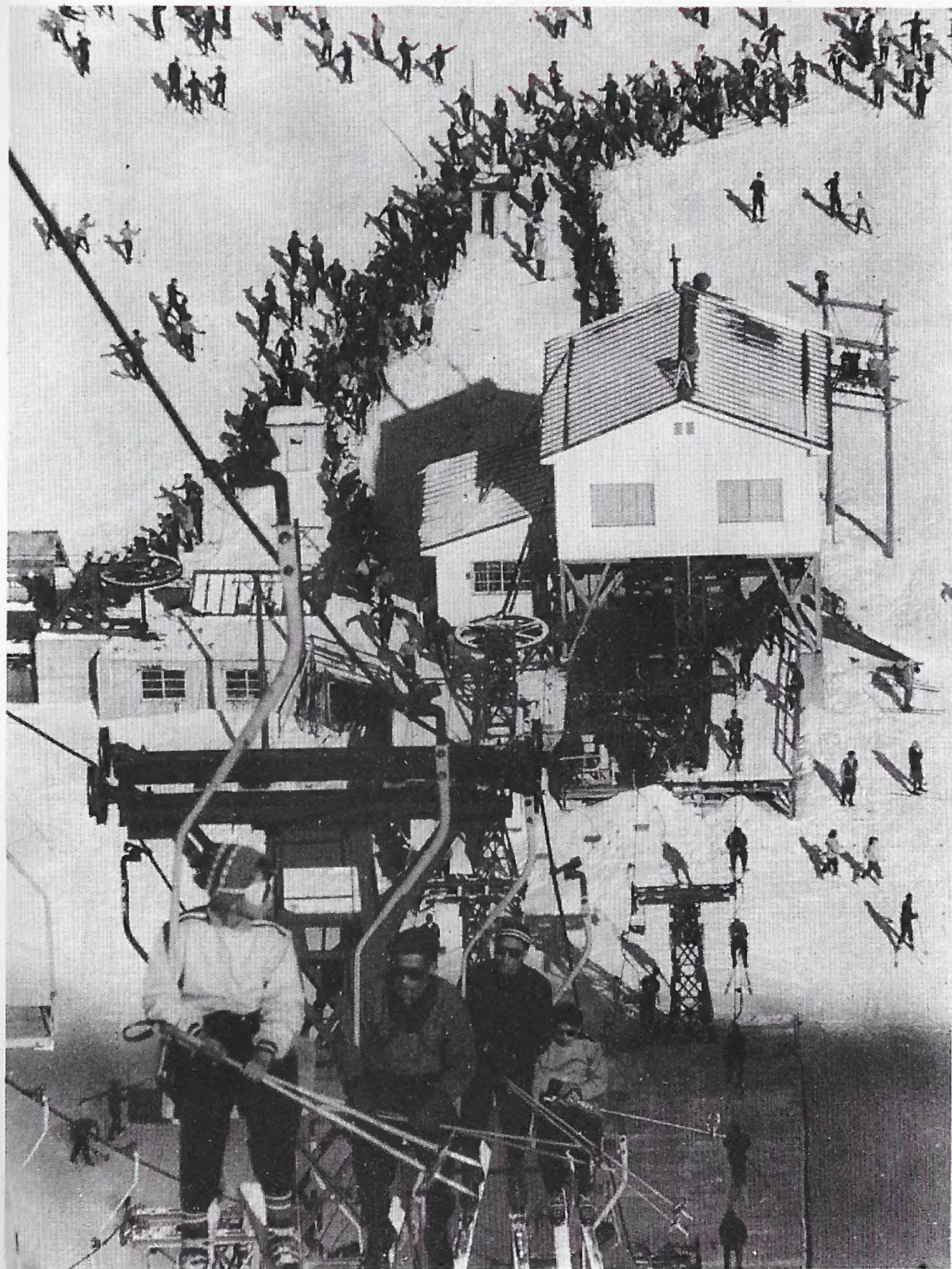


Judo practice by boys



A gymnastic performance

Sports



Skiing, an increasingly popular sport

The Japanese people like to play all kinds of sports. Baseball is the most popular sport today for both youngsters and adults alike. Everywhere there are school teams and amateur baseball clubs. Japan also has two professional baseball leagues whose stars are as famous as movie actors and actresses. During the spring season, thousands of people go to see professional games and many more watch them on television. The best-known amateur baseball series is the nationwide inter-high school competition held each year.

Football, rugby, basketball, volley ball, tennis and track are also popular sports. Japanese swimmers are among the best swimmers in the world. In recent years, many Japanese have won first place in international table tennis matches and Japan's marathon runners have gained fame at various world meets. Golf and skiing have recently become important sports and Japanese golfers and skiers are now taking part in many international competitions.

Traditional sports also have large public support. These include "sumo," "judo," and "kendo." Sumo is a form of wrestling where a wrestler wins if he forces his opponent to the ground or out of the ring. Judo is a form of self-defense which requires quick thinking and action rather than physical strength or size. Kendo is Japan's traditional form of fencing in which split bamboo poles are used rather than fencing swords or foils.

Japan has been a regular member of the Olympic Games. The 1958 Asian Games were held in Tokyo and in 1964 the Olympic Games will also be held in Tokyo, this being the first time for these Games to be held in Asia.

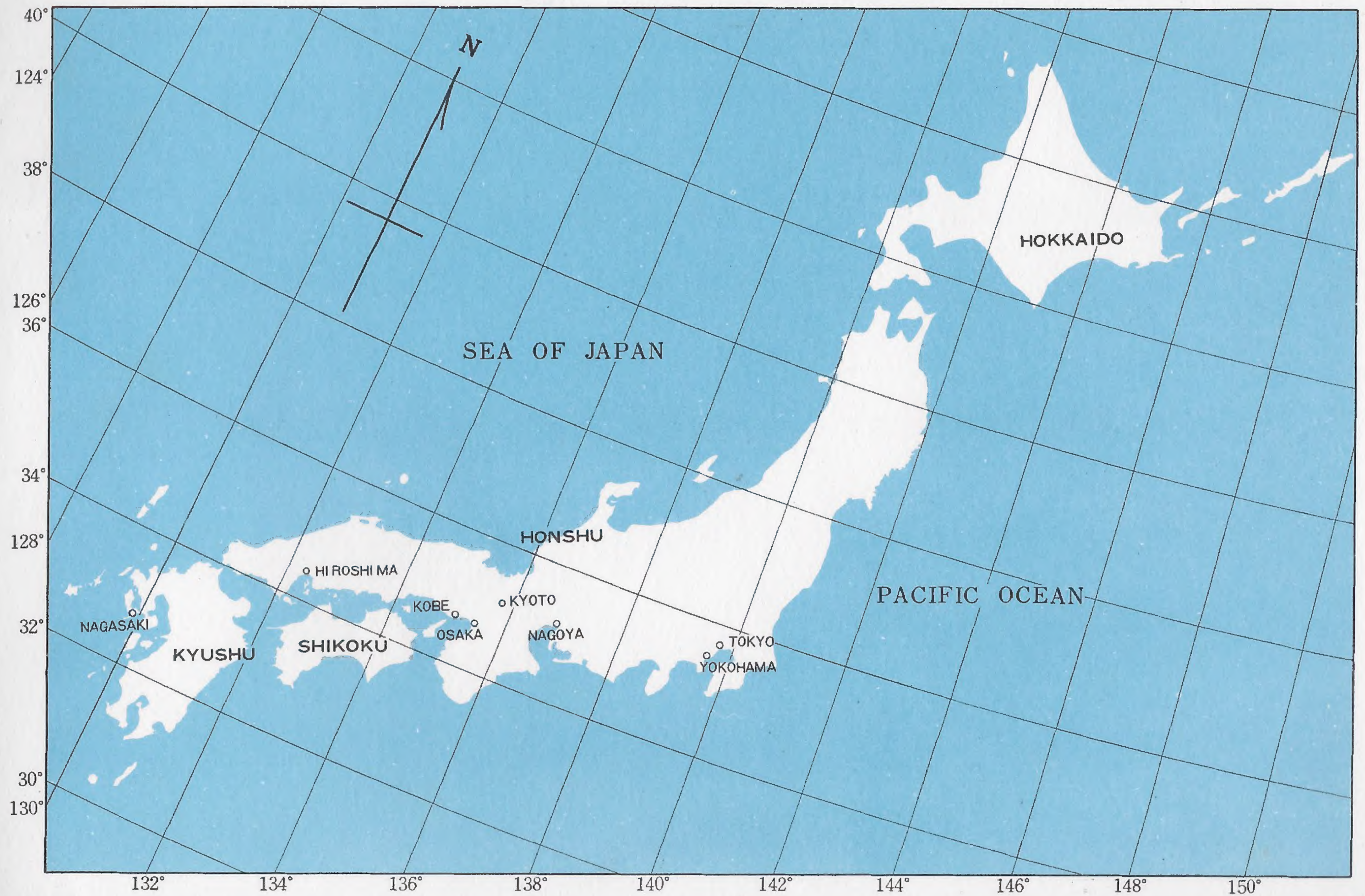
Postscript

In 1854, Japan opened its doors to the rest of the world, thus signaling the end of nearly 300 years of isolation and the beginning of its participation in the world community. In those days, travel between Japan and other nations took many days and months of dangerous voyaging over vast oceans and across endless miles of land.

Today, these long distances that once separated nations have become highways for the international exchange of people and ideas. The rapid development of the means of transportation and communication have made all nations, in a real sense, neighbors.

Japan, as an active member of the international family of nations, is dedicated to helping build a peaceful world based on freedom and justice. To this end, the Japanese people are devoting their energies to promoting greater mutual understanding among all peoples. This brochure is published as a contribution to this objective by providing an up-to-date source of information on Japan for its neighbors everywhere.

JAPAN



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JAPAN